

Newsletter Autumn Term – 03.11.2023

What happened this week in school?

Well done to years 5 and 6 who came 3rd in the WESSP Tag Rugby competition. We are proud of you!

Two boxes have been purchased – one as a suggestions box and one for donations (any donation will be much appreciated). These are by the office. Please feel free to leave positive comments/contributions and/or suggestions (this can be anonymous). We really want to celebrate positives and work with our community.



As part of fundraising, we want to see how quickly we can fill our “Giant Coke” bottle with silver coins (or notes). Pupils can bring in donations from Monday. There will be a raffle to guess how much is in the bottle” Dr Lawson has put the first £1 in!

A kind reminder that parents need to discuss questions with teachers in the first instance and not escalate requests to the Headteacher immediately. We ask that parents treat our staff with respect and in a polite manner.

We still have a vacancy for a parent governor. Please contact the school office for more information.

Picture News – This week’s Big Question...



Roots and Fruits

This week's value is **HOPE**







British Value of the term





Rule of Law






Attendance target: 96%

	Reception class 92%
	Yeas 1 and 2 93%
	Years 3 and 4 93%
	Years 5 and 6 96%
Whole school	94%

House Points

Ants		333
Badgers		325
Locusts		412
Lizards		300

Value Awards

	Reception	All Children	Courage: Joining the whole school for assemblies and our first Parent Assembly
	Courage		
	Years 1 and 2	Loki	For trying to approach his learning with loads of positive attitude
	Years 3 and 4	Joey	For starting to try hard with his writing
	Years 5 and 6	Lillie	For trying hard with her learning
	Creativity		
	Years 1 and 2	Lincoln	For trying to achieve better presentation in his books
	Years 3 and 4	Phoebe	For contributing lots of ideas in Music lesson
	Years 5 and 6	Teddy Da	For great creative skills during DT
	Respect		
	Years 1 and 2	Jesse	For respecting his friends
	Years 3 and 4	Alice Cus	For being a kind friend and being respectful to everyone
	Years 5 and 6	Max	For showing respect when communicating with others
	Compassion		
	Years 1 and 2	Scarlett	For being a good and honest friend
	Years 3 and 4	Alice Curtis	For being an excellent partner
	Years 5 and 6	Sienna	For being an amazing friend and leader
	Perseverance		
	Years 1 and 2	Lucas	For being a great example of positivity and love of learning
	Years 3 and 4	Daisy	For improving behaviour and trying hard with her work
	Years 5 and 6	Harley	For not giving up – even when it is hard!
	Responsibility		
	Years 1 and 2	Dolly	For being a reliable helper
	Years 3 and 4	Maisey	For trying to work independently
	Years 5 and 6	George	For great enthusiasm when having to help.
	Hope		
	Years 1 and 2	Madison	For trying hard and looking back at her successes
	Years 3 and 4	Hugo	For being a happy and kind member of the class
	Years 5 and 6	Teddie T	For taking some responsibility for his actions.

Classroom News



Reception Red Class

This week we have learnt more digraphs (2 letters, 1 sound): ff, ll, ss, and j.

Our tricky word list is now growing daily, and we have now added: as, put, pull and full. You can consolidate the learning [here](#).

We have been learning about Guy Fawkes and his failed attempt to blow up the Houses of Parliament. We have talked about being safe around fireworks and made our own guy and sparklers (using recycled materials) and firework paintings and scratchings!



This week we also began to join the school for assemblies and had our first Parent Assembly too!



Years 1 and 2 Orange-Yellow Class

This week, we came back to school refreshed and full of energy. Our new unit in science is 'Everyday materials'. We spoke about different types of materials then we looked at the mysterious pile of 'stuff' in the middle of the classroom floor and we organised them into groups. The children enjoyed this activity. They could confidently recognise what each item was made from and put it in the right group.



Years 3 and 4 Green-Blue Class

In English this week, the children have been learning how to write a 'Buddy story'. They have read an example, looked at the features, spoken about the features of a good story and planned their own versions ready to write up next week.

The children enjoyed their first lesson of this half-term in Computing this week. Their topic is: Programming Scratch. They enjoyed 'tinkering' on Scratch by choosing a 'Sprite' and adding actions. They will be exploring more features of Scratch in the upcoming weeks.



Years 5 and 6 Indigo-Violet Class

We had a very active week this week. On Tuesday we took part in the Ongar Family TAG rugby event. Both of our teams reached 3rd place in the competition. Well done to every child that took part and thank you to all the parents that came to support them.



For PSHE, we did some yoga poses and breathing to help us to relax. We did various yoga poses including the rainbow pose, dog pose, boat pose and happy baby pose.



Information

Reminders

Reception open days:

- Monday, 4 December 2023 at 09.45-10.15
- Thursday, 11 January 2024 at 09.45-10.15

Parent Governor vacancy:

There is still one vacancy for a Parent Governor. Please contact the school office to indicate any interest.

Concerns

A kind reminder that parents should discuss any issues with the class teacher in the first instance to resolve them. We are aware that a very small number of individuals are using social media to air their concerns. This is not the appropriate avenue and we urge parents to partner with the school to address any issues collectively.

PR drive for the school

We are open for suggestions to promote the school and to establish us as the preferred choice of school. Word of mouth is a very effective and valuable tool. Thank you to our wonderful community, who is supporting the school and spreading all the positives about the school.

Feedback from Open meeting between parents, Governors and Staff held on 31.10.23

The meeting was representative of three classes.

General feedback - Parents feel **positive** about the school and staff with comments made, inclusive of:

- *I am impressed with the staff.*
- *Very impressed with the new staff who joined.*
- *Teachers know their stuff and clear about the direction of learning – this was evident during the meet the teacher session and parent consultation meetings.*
- *Staff address behaviour well*
- *Staff are nurturing and praising pupils.*
- *The “Good to be green” behaviour system works well to promote positive self-esteem.*
- *Children are all friends in this school.*
- *Teachers are positive – this is the general feel.*
- *Pupils are well supported.*
- *Before the start of the year, some parents were not positive and this caused issues, but the school year has really started well on a positive note.*
- *There is a massive positive change in school, making parents feel confident and positive about the school.*
- *Changes around the school have been positive.*
- *Parents do share the positives on WhatsApp which is great.*

Parent consultation evenings - Parents were positive about the parent consultation meeting and particularly happy with seeing how the marking policy is used in marking of books and positive comments their children receive.

Homework - Homework was discussed to consider online set work vs. paper worksheets. Some pupils find online work difficult as not all parents have access to laptops or tablets and mobile phone screens are small. There is also the issue of screen time at home. It was explained that schools don't need to set homework, but that we provide homework to embed learning. Parents agreed that it is difficult to please all requests. The school will look into options regarding homework, as long as it does not increase teachers' workload, e.g. to consider a choice of work, projects, etc. Pupils need to read daily at home and practise timetables.

New staff – New staff have made a good start. Parents are positive about the new staff. It needs to be acknowledged that new staff need to find their feet with new systems, policies and schemes and therefore should not be compared with staff who have been here longer. We are supportive of our staff, pupils and parents alike. If parents have queries, they need to discuss this with teachers in the first instance.

Volunteers – We need volunteers to help in school – especially as volunteer readers. Please contact the school office so that we can action applications for DBS checks. Once this is in place we can also look at parent volunteers to run clubs.

Public relations – It was suggested to make more contact with pre-schools and nurseries to promote the school. Volunteers are happy to drop off leaflets to promote Dr Walker's C of E. We will be inviting pre-schools and nurseries in to attend some of our initiatives and also arrange for joined up activities with our reception class.

Negatives vs Positives – It is noted that there will always be some negative comments, however the positives outway these. Our focus should be on our pupils' learning and their learning experiences. Pupils feel safe and happy in school. Parents commented that they acknowledge that change does not happen overnight, but that the school has made very positive changes. The Open days are great and amazing feedback has been received. Parents also feel that the class sizes are good and a positive for the school.

Fundraising – There will be a Christmas Disco for pupils at the end of term. There will be no Christmas bazaar, however we will do fundraising through a tombola table and raffles. If anyone would like to help with these (and in getting sponsorships for raffle prizes, please contact the school). It was suggested that the school ask for a minimum for £1 donations for non-uniform days to help with school funds. We will have a fundraiser for pupils to be the **HEADTEACHER FOR THE DAY**. One pupil will be drawn from entries.

Clubs – Suggestions made for consideration were; breakfasts with parents and their children and potential clubs (e.g. a film club with volunteers overseeing this on a rota).

Harvest collection



Dr Walker's CofE managed to donate **56kg** of food to the Harlow Foodbank.

This is enough to make **133 meals**.

Harlow Foodbank would like to thank

F1FIELD DR WALKERS

For your gift of **56** Kg of food
to help your neighbours in Harlow.

This is enough to make **133** meals
for families who need our help!*

Harlow Foodbank redistributes gifts of food and other essential items donated by neighbours across Harlow, passing them on to others in our community who have a short term crisis.

You have been part of that neighbourly support. We are Harlow UNITED!

www.mrct.org.uk/foodbank

Find us on..



Harlow Foodbank is a project of the Michael Roberts Charitable Trust – Charity Number 1085006

Unit 8, Housham Hall Farm, Harlow Road, Matching Tye, Harlow CM17 0PB 01279 724515

* The Feeding Britain APPG Report 2016 estimated that on average 2.38 meals come from a kg of food.

Harlow Foodbank is an associate of the Trussell Trust

Anti-bullying week - Odd Socks Day!

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2023

13th -17th November

Pupils to wear odd socks to school on Monday, 13th November. It's a great way to celebrate what makes us all unique in Anti-Bullying Week!

Anti-Bullying Week is an annual UK event which aims to raise awareness of bullying and to highlight ways of preventing and responding to it.

We ask pupils to make a minimum of £1 contribution as part of fundraising.



CALENDAR

08.11.23	KS1 Multi Skills Event at Ongar Academy
09.11.23	KS2 Cross Country at Ongar Primary
10.11.23	National science week parents invited to watch science experiment 2pm to 3pm
13.11.23	Wear Odd Socks to school for Anti Bullying week
17.11.23	BBC Children in need children to dress up as Pudsey or a Rainbow
24.11.23	Green Blue Class Assembly
01.12.23	Orange Yellow Class Assembly
08.12.23	Reception Assembly
08.12.23	Christmas Jumper Day
08.12.23	Christmas Dinner Day
15.12.23	Christmas Disco
18.12.23	WESSP Whole School Sports Day in school
19.12.23	Christmas Concert
20.12.23	Christmas Church Service
04.12.23	Reception Open day 09.45am to 10.15am



Dr Walker's Church of England Primary School

Term and Holiday Dates - Academic Year 2023-2024

September 2023							October 2023							November 2023							
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	
				1	2	3							1			1	2	3	4	5	
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30				
							30	31													

December 2023							January 2024							February 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31					26	27	28	29			

March 2024							April 2024							May 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
				1	2	3	1	2	3	4	5	6	7			1	2	3	4	5
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30						27	28	29	30	31		

June 2024							July 2024							August 2024						
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S
					1	2	1	2	3	4	5	6	7				1	2	3	4
3	4	5	6	7	8	9	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
17	18	19	20	21	22	23	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
24	25	26	27	28	29	30	29	30	31					26	27	28	29	30	31	

School closed: Holidays	School closed: Bank Holiday	School closed: Staff training (INSET)	School days	Weekend

In addition, schools allocate five non-pupil days out of the school days indicated, or the equivalent in disaggregated twilight sessions.

Autumn Term	Monday, 4 September 2023 – Wednesday, 20 December 2023 <i>Half Term 23 October – 27 October</i>	73 days
Spring Term	Thursday, 4 January 2024 – Thursday, 28 March 2024 <i>Half Term 19 February – 23 February</i>	56 days
Summer Term	Monday, 15 April 2024 – Tuesday, 23 July 2024 <i>Half Term 27 May – 31 May, and May Bank Holiday – 6 May</i>	66 days
		195 days

You are strongly advised to check with the school before making any holiday or other commitments.